

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

DEC 15 2000

## Group Art Unit: Unassigned

Examiner: Unassigned

**TECH CENTER 1600/2900**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE**  
**STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application.

Copies of the listed documents are attached. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

With respect to the non-English language documents, Applicants submit the following remarks:

1. **WO 97/05887** - An abstract of the disclosure of this document can be found in the English language Derwent Abstract submitted herewith.

2. **EP 0 234 019** - An abstract of the disclosure of this document can be found in the English language Derwent Abstract submitted herewith.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claims in the application and Applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.


Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,  
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: September 28, 2000

By:   
Anthony C. Tridico  
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